

Development of IT in Orissa

*382. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any step for development of I.T. in Orissa;
- (b) whether Orissa is lagging behind in the field of I.T.; and
- (c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to bring I.T. revolution in the State?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Government of India have been assisting State of Orissa for development of IT in the areas of:

- (i) IT Education and Training
- (ii) IT Infrastructure and Connectivity
- (iii) E-Governance

Under IT Education and Training, Ministry of Information Technology society DOEACC has an operational counselling centre in Software Technology Park of India (STPI), Bhubaneswar for promotion of IT education in the State. Through DOEACC, variety of educational courses O, A, B levels are offered in the State for generating manpower.

Under IT Infrastructure and Connectivity, STPI, is operating in Bhubaneswar providing satellite based data connectivity for exporting IT units. Recently, STPI has established a multi-purpose radio-mast to improve its services. A standby earth station is being planned by STPI for ensuring continuous data connectivity. Provision of two High Speed Data Communication (HSDC) facilities in Bhubaneswar in addition to STPI location are in planning stages. For catering to the IT industries dispersed in other parts of Orissa, a new STPI is being established at Rourkela. From STPI Bhubaneswar efforts of promoting IT sector, export growth of software to the tune of Rs. 137 crore were effected during 2000-2001 (40 per cent rise over 1999-2000) and these are expected to grow further.

Under E-Governance, Central Government has taken the initiative of organising meetings with State IT Secretaries and a National Conference of State IT Ministers. The conference of IT Ministers drawn up an action plan to promote IT and this is being followed up with the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Orissa has given priority to IT growth and has initiated many steps to promote IT. These coupled with the Central Government's efforts have enabled the State of Orissa to perform well in the IT sector compared to earlier. With many other initiatives from the Centre and State Government in the pipeline, the State of Orissa is poised for further growth in the field.

Migration of Hi-Tech Workers

*383. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian hi-tech workers are migrating towards industrialized countries to meet requirements of skilled personnel in the information and communications technology sectors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India's quality faculty positions in Information and Technology are vacant; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the increased opportunities World-wide in the area of IT, the IT professionals are in great demand both in the country and abroad. Faculty position in the area of IT in various Institutes are vacant due to the attractive opportunities available in the Industry. Another reason for vacancies of faculty is relative disinclination of competent professionals to join the teaching profession.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government (Ministry of Human Resource Development/All India Council for Technical Education) including schemes like Early Faculty Induction